

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 10678 190847Z

51

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO CINCPACREPPHIL

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ROCMH PEARL HARBOR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 10678

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, MARR, RP

SUBJ: EMBASSY VIEW ON GAO RECOMMENDATION THAT 1968 BLA BE
AMENDED TO EXCLUDE FILIPINO EMPLOYEES FROM SEVERANCE
ALLOWANCE BENEFITS WHEN ELIGIBLE FOR RETIREMENT

REF: A) SECDEF 052034Z SEP 73

B) CINCPAC 102108Z SEP 73

1. REF A ADVISED THAT GAO HAD RECOMMENDED TO DOD THAT
FILIPINO EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE FOR IMMEDIATE CIVIL SERVICE
RETIREMENT ANNUITIES SHOULD NOT ALSO BE PAID SEVERANCE
ALLOWANCE IN THE EVENT THEY ARE RIF'D SINCE LATTER PAYMENTS
ARE INCONSISTENT WITH PREVAILING LOCAL PRACTICES.

2. GAO RECOMMENDED THAT 1968 US-RP BASE LABOR AGREEMENT
(BLA) BE RENEGOTIATED TO ACHIEVE SPECIFIC END OF EXCLUDING
FILIPINO EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE FOR IMMEDIATE CIVIL SERVICE
RETIREMENT FROM BEING ELIGIBLE FOR SEVERANCE ALLOWANCES
IN THE EVENT OF RIF ACTION. REF A REQUESTED CINCPAC
ADVICE ON PRESENT CLIMATE FOR ENTERING INTO NEGOTIATIONS
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PAGE 02 MANILA 10678 190847Z

WITH THE GOP TO REVISE THE BLA, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE

GAO. REF B REQUESTED ADVICE OF EMBASSY MANILA ON
LATTER QUESTION.

3. EMBASSY MANILA STRONGLY RECOMMENDS AGAINST RENEGOTIA-
TIONS OF THE 1968 BASE LABOR AGREEMENT. IN THE FIRST
PLACE, FILIPINO UNIONS AT THE BASES HAVE WANTED FOR SOME
TIME TO HAVE GOP REQUEST RENEGOTIATION OF BLA TO ACHIEVE:
(1) RIGHT TO STRIKE; (2) COMPULSORY ARBITRATION ON
GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS AND (3) STRENGTHENING PREFERENTIAL
EMPLOYMENT OF FILIPINOS BY NARROWING SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
NEEDS PROVISIONS UNDER WHICH AMERICANS ARE EMPLOYED AT
THE BASES. USG NOT WILLING ACCEPT ANY OF THESE DEMANDS.

4. IN SECOND PLACE, CHANCES THAT GOP NEGOTIATORS WOULD
AGREE TO EXCLUSION FROM SEVERANCE ALLOWANCES IN EVENT
OF RIF WHEN EMPLOYEES ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR RETIREMENT
BENEFITS ARE NIL.

5. EMBASSY REITERATES EMPHATICALLY THAT BLA RENEGOTIATION
SHOULD BE AVOIDED AS LONG AS POSSIBLE AND USG SHOULD
DEFINITELY NOT SEEK RENEGOTIATION FOR UNITED STATES HAS
MORE TO LOSE THAN GAIN.
SULLIVAN

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